

State, local and Federal policies for emergency relief. Many of these policies have encouraged people to live and invest in places where nature has repeatedly shown they are not welcome.

The recent increase in the number of natural disasters and the associated losses has clearly demonstrated that our protective strategies are inherently flawed. We had better figure it out before we are overwhelmed by further impacts of global climate change.

In the last decade alone, we have lost nearly \$100 billion and almost 1,000 lives. Although we have invested tens of billions of dollars in dams and levees over the last 40 years, our losses now total almost six times the amount lost before we began. Natural forces continue to confound our best engineering efforts.

The average coastline in the United States is due to erode approximately 500 feet over the next 60 years, and this figure does not take into account any rise in sea level or increased intensity of storms due to global warming. Walling off our coastlines is a contest we are going to lose.

The National Flood Insurance Program is a good idea and an important program, but it is not sound because over 8,000 victims of repetitive flood loss are not required to either flood-proof their property or relocate out of harm's way. The worst example of this absurdity is the payment of over \$800,000 to the owner of a home in Houston for 16 losses over 20 years for a home that is appraised at less than \$115,000.

Communities on the West Coast should be required to upgrade seismic standards in preparation for earthquakes, to place vulnerable coastal areas off limits to development, and to carefully evaluate the long-term effectiveness of beach reconstruction and fortification.

□ 1245

All of these actions should emphasize appropriate cost-sharing and environmental sustainability. If State or local governments have not or will not do their job, then Federal support should be phased down.

Davenport Iowa's mayor Phil Yerington is correct to point out that the residents of his city are not the only ones who should be subjected to scrutiny. While I appreciate FEMA director Allbaugh's tough questions, I am not convinced that flood walls are the only or even the best answer. Oftentimes structural solutions may provide local protection but only increase flooding problems downstream. Passive flood control systems using wetlands and other natural features may provide better alternatives.

But whatever the approach, people need to accept the consequences of their location and development decisions. Repetitive flood loss should not be the sole responsibility of the Federal government.

State and local governments should ensure that zoning regulations and

building codes in storm-prone areas are rigorous enough to limit wind and water damage by highly predictable weather patterns.

I commend the FEMA director for his concerns, and stand ready, along with my congressional colleagues, to work with him on these difficult issues. Disaster relief should not be lost in the shuffle of must-pass emergency legislation. It must receive the scrutiny it deserves.

We ought to make sure, for example, that Federal tax dollars are not used to rebuild environmentally-damaging lagoons of hog waste in flood plains. The Coastal Barrier Resources Act was a terrific Reagan-era environmental protection embraced by Democrats and Republicans, environmentalists and business interests alike. It should be extended to all coastal areas.

Sensitive shorelines should not have private development subsidized at the Federal taxpayer expense. Government regulations should be making it cheaper and easier for local communities to take the less intrusive greener approach to flood control than to use the more environmentally-damaging structural approaches.

Project Impact, which invested small amounts of Federal money to develop emergency management partnerships and planning in advance of a disaster, should be enhanced, not eliminated, as recommended by the Bush administration. It was an ill omen for the administration to propose Impact's elimination on the very day of the Seattle earthquake.

It is time for the administration to align its land use, disaster, and infrastructure policies to be supportive these cost-effective, visionary approaches. It is time for Congress to step up to be a full partner, rather than supporting short-term parochial interests that only encourage people to live in harm's way, waste tax dollars, and ultimately make the problem worse.

What better response to this year's Earth Day than a bipartisan cooperative approach between the administration and Congress to tackle this long-term and growing problem.

UNITED STATES MISSILE DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, with the President making his remarks today on missile defense, I think we need to recognize unprecedented political challenges loom on the strategic horizon. Current U.S. defense force planning is set within an atmosphere of great uncertainty. Historic rivals of the United States, such as the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc nations, have either disintegrated altogether or lost much of their competitive influence.

Regional state actors, particularly on the Asian continent, show signs of future ascendancy on the world political stage. Other nation states, some exhibiting anti-U.S. bent, continue to challenge American allies and interests around the world, even as U.S. peacekeeping and peacemaking commitments evolve.

The very definition of American interests is in transition as varied threats emerge in the post-Cold War world.

International corruption, organized crime, and the production, trade, and trafficking of illicit narcotics is on the rise. These transnational threats contribute to the instability of political systems abroad, the violation of U.S. borders, and often represent a threat to social conditions in the United States.

The threat of terrorism, both state and non-state sponsored, has grown in significance and Americans have increasingly become targets for attackers abroad. According to a December 2000 unclassified Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) report, terrorist attacks against the United States, its forces, facilities, and interests overseas are expected to increase over the next decade. Additionally the report states, "Between now and 2015 terrorist tactics will become increasingly sophisticated and designed to achieve mass casualties." This potential threat is of particular concern for the United States with its open borders, emphasis on local—and perhaps uncoordinated—emergency responders, and a prevalent cultural respect for civil liberties, and, thus, freedom of movement and action. Antiterrorist measures must address all plausible attack scenarios, including the delivery of an explosive device by more traditional means, such as by ship, rail, foot, or automotive vehicle.

The availability of advanced technologies has also reached a significant level of concern as Russia, China, and North Korea, continue to exhibit ambivalent attitudes towards non-proliferation agreements.

The 2001 Report of the Secretary of Defense to the President and the Congress notes the spread of materials with potential applications to nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, and highlights the proliferation of advanced long-range delivery systems.

Another study, the Quadrennial Defense Review 2001 Working Group by the National Defense University laments, and I quote, "Given the diffusion of advanced military technologies and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, one could envision an adversary armed with longer-range missiles and cruise missiles, weapons of mass destruction, advanced integrated air defense systems, and/or sophisticated anti-ship mines and missiles by 2010, if not sooner."

U.S. military forces, then—forward deployed to temper adversarial behavior and required to provide both a credible deterrence and an overwhelming response to aggression if needed—face new and multiple challenges, not the least of which is to consider anew its role in assisting with defense of national territory.

Set within this context, U.S. strategists are challenged with questions about nuclear strategy and force posture, arms control regimes, and missile